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A Poem, In memory and as a tribute due to the
Forbes's of Edinglassie and the Newe, Analyzing
their kindness and their landlords then, And
benevolence to th' poor, I here explain.

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A P O E M,

In memory, and as a tribute due
To the FORBES's of Edinglassie and the Newe,
Analyzing their kindness as landlords then,
And benevolence to th' poor, I here explain.

DEDICATED TO

SIR CHARLES FORBES, Bart., of Newe and Edinglassie.

Don, from thy spring and utmost source,
Even to the sea where you end your course ;
Within those bounds that you extend,
Nay, in this tract from end to end ;

A people better us'd there's none,
Than are the natives of Strathdon ;
For ever since I remember then,
Your Lairds have been most noble men.

Yea, the gen'rous Forbes's of the Newe,
Their equals are in number few ;
To their tenants ever just and kind,
Where shall we then their equals find ?

Corgarff-men, your till seems as lost,
When crops are seized with biting frost,
And in it neither meal nor seed,
This appears somewhat severe indeed.

So want appears at you to stare,
When for you they show a father's care ;
In case that you they should harass,
Then a year's rent to you they pass.

In gen'rous kindness, they also
Give you seed your fields to sow ;
If in arrears some back may fall,
The bailiff's not sent on them to call.

But with a kindly sympathy,
They forgive the debt and pass it by ;
Sir Charles by his titles called,
Your honour'd Master's now install'd.

Who like a clement landlord then,
Wishes all his tenants to remain ;

Near where Gairn's native streams do end,
I there my youthful days did spend,
By birth I there beheld the first dawn,
Tho' on me fortune doth not fawn.

And now my age is, as date appears,
Half a century and six years ;

MILL OF PRONIE, Sept 12th, 1833.

Nor wills that any should remove,
That under's bounty you may improve.

Your interest, next to his own,
He has in view, without a frown,
A master every way so kind,
Where may you then expect to find ?

When master and tenant thus accord,
(In simile as a double cord,)
And so united mutually,
In bands of joint prosperity.

Landlords by him a pattern take,
Both for your own and tenants sake ;
He's the widow's shield, the orphan's stay,
Follow him as a model every way.

To tenants also be just and kind,
So in the hour of need you'll find ;
Your poor vassals do not harass,
Those in arrears them kindly pass.

So they'll defend you to the last,
What foe then can make you agnast ;
For if enemies should assail,
Will deer and roe 'gainst such prevail ?

To farmers some indulgence give,
As it's by the plough all must live ;
So many then will not withdraw,
To dig for gold in Australia.

So to foreign climes, they'll not roam,
But with kind landlords stay at home ;
This'll draw down a blessing on our isle,
That'll cause peace and plenty on it to smile.

G. M'N.

Born seventeen and ninety-seven,
The thirteenth June, these years are even.

And thro' this weary pilgrimage,
I've fought with poverty on life's stage ;
And tho' the best I am doing still,
Its like to gain vict'ry do what I will.

G M'N.